

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAIGON 05066 290039 Z

12

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12

EUR-25 IO-12 DPW-01 AID-20 RSR-01 /138 W

----- 047943

R 280520 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9261

USDEL FRANCE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 5066

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS PINT PINS MILI VS

SUBJECT: DAILY MR III SITROP - 27 MARCH 1973

FOLLOWING MESSAGE RECEIVED FROM AMCONSUL BIEN HOA 27 MARCH 1973
REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO

QUOTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L/ NOFORN BIEN HOA 0039

SUBJ: DAILY MR III SITREP - 27 MARCH 1973

1. THE POLISH DELEGATION TO THE ICCS TEAM AT BEN CAT HAS PULLED BACK TO BIEN HOA, CLAIMING THAT BEN CAT IS NOW TOO UNSAFE FOR THE ICCS TEAM TO REMAIN. THUS THE POLES CONTINUE TO BE THE BIGGEST OBSTACLE TO AN EFFECTIVE ICCS IN REGION V. THEIR STALLING TACTICS HAVE BECOME SO BLATANT THAT THE HUNGARIANS ARE EMBARRASSED, THE INDONESIANS ARE IRRITATED, AND THE CANADIANS ARE BITTER.

2. CANADIAN ICCS SOURCES STATE THAT THE CURRENT CANADIAN STRATEGY IS TO STAY IN THE ICCS A WHILE LONGER TO GIVE IT A CHANCE TO BECOME EFFECTIVE, MAINLY BECAUSE CANADA DOES NOT WANT TO BE THE WORLD'S SCAPEGOAT FOR THE FAILURE OF THE ICCS. WHILE STAYING ON, HOWEVER, CANADA WILL CAREFULLY DOCUMENT ITS CASE THAT IT IS NOT CANADA THAT IS THE CAUSE OF THE ICCS' INEFFECTIVENESS. TO HELP DOCUMENT ITS CASE IN REGION V, A CANADIAN PUBLIC RELATIONS PHOTOGRAPHER WAS SENT FROM SAIGON
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAIGON 05066 290039 Z

TO BEN CAT TO FILM THE DEPARTURE OF THE POLES. HE ARRIVED 10 MINUTES AFTER THEY HAD LEFT, GAVE CHASE HOPING TO GET SHOTS OF THEM ON THE ROAD, COULD NOT CATCH UP, WENT BACK TO BEN CAT TO GET A HELICOPTER TO TAKE HIM TO BIEN HOA HOPING TO GET SHOTS OF THEM ENTERING THE ICCS COMPOUND, BUT ONCE AGAIN ARRIVED TOO LATE. FORTUNATELY FOR CANADA AND ITS PHOTOGRAPHER, AN ABC OR NBC CAMERAMAN WAS IN BEN CAT AND SUPPOSEDLY DID FILM THE DEPARTURE OF THE ELUSIVE COMMUNIST BUTTERFLIES. WE BELIEVE THAT CANADA WILL TRY TO OBTAIN THAT FILM FOOTAGE, AND WILL CONTINUE TO FILL ITS DOSSIERS SO THAT IF CANADA PULLS OUT, IT CAN PRESENT A FULLY DOCUMENTED CASE TO THE WORLD THAT IT WAS THE UNCOOPERATIVE ATTITUDE OF THE COMMUNIST DELEGATIONS THAT SCUTTLED THE ICCS, NOT CANADA.

3. THE RECENT CHANGE IN REGION V CANDEL ATTITUDES TOWARDS THIS CONSULATE GENERAL'S REPORTING OFFICERS HAS BEEN PAINFUL TO WATCH. IN THE WAKE OF THE REMOVAL OF FORMER CANDEL CHIEF COL. MARSH, HIS REPLACEMENT, COL. SIMONDS, HAS REPORTEDLY ORDERED CANDELS TO AVOID CONTACT WITH U. S. PERSONNEL. CANDELS ARE NOW SELDOM SEEN AT THE CONSULATE GENERAL DINING ROOM, WHERE THEY HAD BEEN ALMOST NIGHTLY VISITORS, CANDELS ARE FINDING IT INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT TO ACCEPT PRIVATE INVITATIONS TO DINNER, AND A VALUABLE SOURCE OF INFORMATION ON REGION V ICCS ACTIVITIES HAS VIRTUALLY DRIED UP.

4. THE NVA/ VC HAVE TEMPORARILY BLOCKED INTERPROVINCE ROAD 25 BETWEEN LONG THANH DISTRICT TOWN AND BINH SON HAMLET, LOC AN VILLAGE, AND IN PHU HOI VILLAGE OF NHON TRACH DISTRICT (BIEN HOA).

5. REGIONAL FORCE SOLDIERS ARE REPORTEDLY LOSING THE HEARTS OF THE PEOPLE OF LONG AN, THAI THIEN, AND LONG PHUOC VILLAGES OF LONG THANH DISTRICT (BIEN HOA) BY STEALING THEIR CHICKENS AND HOLDING THEM UP FOR ILLEGAL TAXES.

6. DISCONTENT WITH THE ECONOMIC SITUATION CAME OUT INTO THE OPEN AT AN ANTI- COMMUNIST MEETING ORGANIZED BY THE LONG THANH POLITICAL STRUGGLE COMMITTEE. SOME OBVIOUSLY ANGRY OLDER MEN DEMANDED TO KNOW WHAT THE GRVN INTENDED TO DO ABOUT THE RISING COST OF LIVING. THE PROPAGANDISTS' CLASSICALLY BUREAUCRATIC RESPONSE WAS THAT DISCUSSION OF ECONOMIC QUESTIONS WAS NOT WITHIN THEIR COMPETENCE. AS MOST SUCH MEETINGS CONSIST ENTIRELY OF LECTURES WITH NO SERIOUS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAIGON 05066 290039 Z

PARTICIPATION, THE OUTBURST INDICATES THAT PUBLIC INDIGNATION OVER ECONOMIC ISSUE MAY BECOME A PROBLEM FOR THE GRVN SYCOPHANTS.

7. PHUOC LONG PROVINCE PEOPLE'S MOTIVATION CHIEF, NGUYEN MINH CHAU, WHO IS REGARDED AS ONE OF THE BEST OF A BAD LOT OF PROVINCE VIS CHIEFS, TOLD US MARCH 23 THAT THE GRVN POPULAR FRONT IS NOT MORIBUND IN HIS PROVINCE. MEMBERS OF THE FRONT PRESIDIA, WORKING CLOSELY WITH THE POLITICAL STRUGGLE COMMITTEE, HELP TO PRESENT THE GRVN'S LINE TO THE PEOPLE, AND THEY ARE GOOD AT IT BECAUSE THEY HAVE MORE POPULAR CREDIBILITY THAN GRVN CADRES HAVE. CHAU, WHILE NOT ADMITTING HE IS A MEMBER OF THE DEMOCRACY PARTY, ATTEMPTED TO CONVINCE US THAT THE DP'S 14,000 MEMBERS IN PHUOC LONG (REPRESENTING A GREAT MAJORITY OF VOTERS THERE) WERE NOT FORCED TO JOIN BUT RATHER WERE ATTRACTED BY THE DP'S RESOLUTE ANTI-COMMUNIST POLICY.

8. ARVN III CORPS REPORTED 15 VC/NVA INITIATED INCIDENTS, 8 OF THEM GROUND CONTACTS AND 7 ATTACKS BY FIRE. TONLE CHAM BASE CAMP RECEIVED ABOUT 100 ROUNDS OF MIXED MORTAR, ROCKET AND TUBE ARTILLERY WHICH KILLED 1 RANGER AND WOUNDED 5 OTHERS. THERE WAS NO GROUND ATTACK ON THE WELL DEFENDED CAMP. IN TAY NINH PROVINCE, THE 126 TH RF COMPANY WAS MORTARED AND SUSTAINED A GROUND ATTACK FROM AN UNKNOWN SIZE HOSTILE FORCE. THE VC LOST 3 KILLED, THE RF 1 KILLED AND 1 WOUNDED. IN BINH TUY PROVINCE THE 20 TH RF PLATOON WAS ALSO MORTARED AND ATTACKED ON THE GROUND BY AN UNIDENTIFIED PLATOON SIZE HOSTILE FORCE. THE VC LOST 5 KILLED AND 3 CAPTURED, WHILE 3 PF WERE WOUNDED. DAILY CASUALTY FIGURES WERE 8 VC KILLED, 2 FRIENDLY KILLED AND 7 WOUNDED. THERE WERE NO CIVILIAN CASUALTIES REPORTED.

9. III CORPS CUMULATIVE LOSS TOTALS SINCE THE CEASE-FIRE ARE GIVEN AS 3085 VC/NVA KIA, 71 DETAINEES, 45 RALLIERS, 112 CREW SERVED AND 643 INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS CAPTURED. FRIENDLY LOSSES FOR THE SAME PERIOD ARE REPORTED AS 466 KIA, 1958 WIA, 46 MIA, 14 CREW SERVED AND 179 INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS LOST. ACCORDING TO NATIONAL POLICE REPORTS, IN THE WEEK ENDING MARCH 25 TH THERE WERE 2 ASSASSINATIONS, 4 ABDUCTIONS, AND 8 BOOBY TRAP INCIDENTS IN MR III. WALKINSHAW UNQUOTE
BUNKER
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 SAIGON 05066 290039 Z

CONFIDENTIAL

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 MAR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SAIGON05066
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730343/aaaaimry.tel
Line Count: 168
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05-Dec-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <28-Dec-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 980112
Subject: DAILY MR III SITROP - 27 MARCH 1973
TAGS: MILI, PINS, PINT
To: EA
FRANCE
SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005